

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, founded as Penn School in 1862, Penn Center was one of the first schools to offer an education to formerly enslaved African-Americans of the Sea Islands; and

WHEREAS, when the school closed in 1953, Penn Center became a community development center, focusing on issues ranging from daycare to health care to civil rights to community development and the preservation of Gullah culture; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, the 50-acre Penn School campus was designated a National Historic Landmark District by the United States Department of the Interior and is one of our nation's most historically significant African-American educational and cultural institutions; and

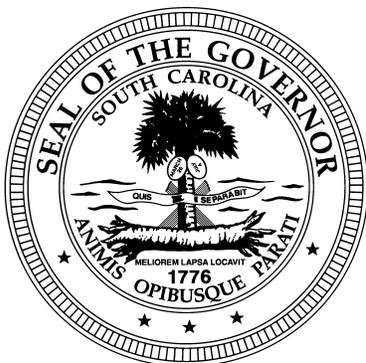
WHEREAS, first celebrated in 1981, the Penn Center Heritage Days Celebration has grown to a significant event of food, entertainment, exhibits, activities, and more; and

WHEREAS, Penn Center Heritage Days draws over 15,000 visitors from South Carolina, the nation, and abroad in celebration of the many contributions made by African-Americans of the Sea Islands to our rich cultural heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 6 – 13, 2005, as

PENN CENTER HERITAGE DAYS

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the value of local festivals and celebrations to the preservation of our unique culture.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford", is written over a white background.

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA